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UM Student Entrepreneurs Impress at Fall Startup Pitch Competition

December 29, 2015

MISSOULA – An enthusiastic audience turned out Dec. 14 for the University of Montana’s annual Fall Startup Pitch Competition held in the Gallagher Business Building and hosted by Blackstone LaunchPad and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs.

Nine student contestants were chosen from 15 applicants to compete in the event, and three of those contestants won cash prizes totaling \$2,500. It was the most diverse group of competitors to date, with students representing majors including anthropology and sociology; visual and performing arts, dance and sonic arts; environmental studies; health and human performance; computer science; and business.

“I was impressed with the diversity of business ideas and the caliber of student presentations,” said Dori Gilels, MADE member and competition judge. “I was also excited to see students representing a wide range of disciplines and departments across campus.”

The overall winner of the competition was computer science graduate student Evin Oser of Montana Root Applications, who pitched a smartphone application SolarScreen at SolarScreen.co. The Android app currently is

available for download on Google Play for \$2.99 and is forthcoming in the Apple App Store for iOS. SolarScreen detects sun intensity based on the user's geolocation, warns the user if UV rays are too high for their personal profile, and also reminds users when to reapply sunscreen. As winner of the fall competition, Oser receives \$1,500 and an automatic entry to the larger, statewide John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge held each spring at UM.

The award for "most exciting startup idea" went to Johanna Ciampa, a student in UM's College of Visual and Performing Arts. Ciampa pitched her idea for EthnoDance, an early-stage venture which captures dances from around the world in video form before they become extinct, and then delivers the content in a subscription-based Web model to institutions and dance enthusiasts. Ciampa was awarded \$500.

Winner of the "most compelling live presentation" went to management major Graydon Myhre for his pitch to support sustainable transportation by providing a safe, cost-effective method for longboard, skateboard and scooter users to secure their boards. LongLoc uses recycled material to help organizations to avoid liability and support sustainable transportation in addition to providing greater convenience for both users and other building occupants. Graydon was awarded \$500.

Additional students pitching their ideas were Samantha Alario, Gemini Mountain; Tyler Christianson, Vector Visuals; Sam Graeb, planetHEMP; Lindsay Blair, Last Best Records; Zachary Smith, Tea is Chi; and Silvester Ondigo, Mamradi.

"All of the finalists showed a well-thought-out business plan and an excellent ability to communicate," said Phill Guay, MADE member and judge. "These were not just passionate ideas but disciplined reviews of the markets identifying issues that need to be addressed to create successful businesses. Each participant showed the skills necessary to be both entrepreneurs and business leaders."

Blackstone LaunchPad at UM is designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path and develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets through individualized coaching, ideation and venture creation support. Developed as part of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation's Entrepreneurship Initiative, the program currently is available to over 350,000 students on 15 campuses in six regions across the country. More information about the Blackstone LaunchPad is available at <http://www.umt.edu/launchpad/>.

MADE is a program of the School of Business Administration at UM that promotes and projects the spirit of entrepreneurship to all UM students and Montana entrepreneurs through educational opportunities and special events. MADE members include entrepreneurs and individuals with experience working with and advising entrepreneurs, such as angel investors, bankers, attorneys and SoBA faculty. More information about MADE is available at <http://www.business.umt.edu/DegreesPrograms/MADE.aspx>.

Contact: Morgan Slemberger, Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana, 406-243-5723, morgan.slemberger@umontana.edu.

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UM Holiday Programs Benefit Dozens of Local Families, Veterans

December 23, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana community donated enough food, gifts and other items to benefit more than 40 local families and 20 veterans through the Office of Civic Engagement’s 2015 Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Veteran programs. UM wrapped up the project with a gift-wrapping party Dec. 17 at The Bookstore at UM.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Family/Veteran project is to ensure that everyone in the Missoula area is able to celebrate the holidays by assisting people who cannot afford to provide for themselves or their families. UM departments, student groups and individuals adopted a family, a veteran or both. This year’s donations helped a total of 168 people.

“The Office for Civic Engagement would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those members of the UM community who participated in the Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Veteran programs,” said Shelby Stormer, OCE pathways and events coordinator. “Your efforts have truly made a difference in the lives of hundreds of Missoula residents during this past holiday season. We also wish to thank The Bookstore for their generosity in hosting the wrapping party and providing all the necessary materials.”

UM's OCE, part of the Davidson Honors College, focuses on growth in civic competency, collaboration and service through curricular and community-based experiences. The office coordinates the project with the help of the Salvation Army and Valor House.

For more information about the Adopt-a-Family/Veteran project and UM's Office for Civic Engagement, call 406-243-5531 or visit <http://www.dhc.umt.edu/oce>.

Contact: UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5531, oce_mail@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Education Professor Named to Editorial Board of Prestigious National Publication

December 23, 2015

MISSOULA – Adrea Lawrence, associate professor in the University of Montana’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, has been appointed to the editorial board of a prominent national education publication, History of Education Quarterly. She will hold this position for a three-year term beginning January 2016.

History of Education Quarterly is the premier scholarly journal focused on the history of education in the U.S. It serves as the primary publication of the History of Education Society, an international scholar society that aims to promote and improve the teaching of the history of education in colleges and universities, encourage scholarly research in the history of education, and facilitate the publication and dissemination of the results of that research.

“It is such an honor to serve on the History of Education Quarterly’s editorial board,” Lawrence said. “The new editorial staff and board is focused on reconsidering how education writ large is framed and how it works to create

cultures and societies.”

In her role as a board member for History of Education Quarterly, Lawrence will be part of a key team responsible for determining the latest pertinent trends and topics in the field of education history. She also will be responsible for reviewing and selecting various manuscripts and articles presented to the publication.

Lawrence has been involved with the History of Education Society since 2005. In that time, her contributions have included presenting at multiple conferences, offering commentaries and being part of a special issue on the history of American Indian education, which came out in fall 2014.

For more information on the History of Education Society or History of Education Quarterly, visit <http://www.historyofeducation.org/>. For more information on Lawrence or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at UM, call Communications Manager Peter Knox at 406-243-4911 or email peter.knox@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Peter Knox, communications manager, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-4911, peter.knox@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Students Publish 2016 Edition of Montana Journalism Review

December 22, 2015

MISSOULA – The new issue of Montana Journalism Review is fresh off the press, produced by an all-student staff from the University of Montana’s School of Journalism. The magazine is dedicated to holding a mirror to the news media in Montana and other western states, and reporting and interpreting trends that affect journalists in this part of the country.

“Everyone who’s interested in journalism in the West must



read this issue,” said Associate Professor Henriette Lowisch, who serves as MJR’s editor-in-chief. “It provides a fresh look at questions we media people obsess about – from wildfire coverage to free speech.”

Issue 45 is built around the theme “burn,” with a cover story analyzing what gets lost in often sensationalized coverage of the wildfires that are so much a part of the western landscape. Other features examine how newspapers cover news ranging from state politics to the new cannabis beat. Cutting-edge scientists speak out on overlooked stories, freelancers get tips on how to make their work pay, and radio icon Ira Glass offers career advice.

Students on the MJR staff receive a crash course in producing a high-quality magazine.

“Creating MJR is one of the most authentic experiences students can have in the classroom,” said Managing Editor Nicky Ouellet, a graduate student in UM’s master’s program for environmental science and natural resource journalism. “I’m really proud of what we’ve created, and the immense energy and dedication our staff poured into this issue.”

As other classes ramped up in September, some students in the capstone course that produces MJR were already reporting, writing and photographing on deadline. Other staff members chased down outside contributors, who often had far more years of journalism experience than the newfound editors. For the first time, some of the stories were published on medium.com, an alternative story platform that specializes in showcasing long-form work. Read select stories at <https://medium.com/montana-journalism-review>.

This year’s MJR team worked to improve the fact-checking and copy-editing system for increased accuracy and a more efficient workflow. Online navigation is now easier on the magazine’s newly designed website. All stories, along with past issues of the magazine, are available online at <http://mjr.jour.umont.edu>. The print magazine, which is sent to subscribers across North America and Europe, can be ordered through the MJR website.

Contact: Henriette Lowisch, UM School of Journalism associate professor, 406-243-2227,

henriette.lowisch@umontana.edu.



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Death Cab for Cutie Concert at UM Rescheduled for May

December 21, 2015

MISSOULA – The Death Cab for Cutie concert at the University of Montana, originally scheduled for September, has been rescheduled for Friday, May 6, 2016, at the Adams Center.

The rescheduled Missoula performance, presented by UM Productions, will be added onto the second leg of the band's international tour promoting their eighth studio album, "Kintsugi." The show will begin at 7:30 p.m., and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The opening act will be announced at a later date.

For almost two decades, alternative rock band Death Cab for Cutie has been hailed as one of contemporary music's most creatively interesting bands. The three-piece band has been nominated for four Grammy Awards.

"Hey Missoula! We're so excited to announce we'll be back on May 6, 2016, to make up for our canceled 2015 show," the band wrote in a statement. "Thank you for your patience while we sorted this out, and see you all soon!"

Tickets are on sale now. They cost \$29.50, plus ticket fees, and are available online at <http://www.griztix.com>, by calling 406-243-4051 or 888-MONTANA, or at GrizTix outlets, including The Source in the University Center,

Southgate Mall, Worden’s Market and MSO Hub. All tickets purchased for the September 2015 postponed show will be honored as well.

For more information contact UM Productions marketing coordinator Ellen VanSlyke at 406-243-4719, email marketing@umproductions.org or visit the band’s website at <http://deathcabforcutie.com/>.

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Contact: Ellen VanSlyke, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org.



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Methane Emissions in Arctic Cold Season Higher Than Expected

December 21, 2015

MISSOULA – The amount of methane gas escaping from the ground during the long cold period in the Arctic and entering Earth's atmosphere is likely much higher than estimated by current climate change models concludes a major new study led by San Diego State University.

A team led by SDSU ecologists Walter Oechel and Donatella Zona and including scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion University, Harvard University, the University of Montana and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that far more methane is escaping from Arctic tundra during the cold months when the soil surface is frozen (generally from September through May), and from upland tundra, than prevailing assumptions and climate modelers previously believed. In fact, they found that at least half of the methane emissions occur in the cold months, and that drier, upland tundra can be larger emitters of methane than wet tundra. The finding challenges critical assumptions in current global climate models. The results are published today in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that intensifies atmospheric warming and is approximately 25 times more potent per molecule than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. Methane trapped in the Arctic tundra comes

primarily from microbial decomposition of organic matter in soil that thaws seasonally. This methane naturally seeps out of the soil over the course of the year, but scientists worry that climate change could lead to the release of even larger emissions from organic matter that is currently stabilized in a deep, frozen soil layer called permafrost.

Over the past several decades, scientists have used specialized instruments to accurately measure methane emissions in the Arctic and have incorporated those results into global climate models. However, almost all of these measurements have been obtained during the Arctic's short summer. The region's long, brutal cold period, which accounts for between 70 and 80 percent of the year, has been largely "overlooked and ignored," according to Oechel. Most researchers, he said, figured that because the ground is frozen solid during the cold months methane emissions practically shut down for the winter.

"Virtually all the climate models assume there's no or very little emission of methane when the ground is frozen," Oechel said. "That assumption is incorrect."

The water trapped in the soil doesn't freeze completely at zero degrees Celsius, he explained. The top layer of the ground, known as the active layer, thaws in the summer and refreezes in the winter, and it experiences a kind of sandwiching effect as it freezes. When temperatures are right around zero degrees Celsius – the so-called "zero curtain" – the top and bottom of the active layer begin to freeze, while the middle remains insulated. Microorganisms in this unfrozen middle layer continue to break down organic matter and emit methane many months into the Arctic's cold period each year.

Just how much methane is emitted during the Arctic winter? To find out, Oechel and Zona oversaw the upgrading of five sampling towers to operate continuously year-round above the Arctic Circle in Alaska. The researchers recorded methane emissions from these sites over two summer-fall-winter cycles between June 2013 and January 2015. It was an arduous task requiring highly specialized instruments that had to operate continuously and autonomously through extreme cold for months at a time. They developed a deicing system that eliminated biases in the measurement and that was only activated when needed to maintain operation of the instruments down to minus 50 degrees Celsius.

After analyzing the data, the research team found that a major portion of methane emissions during the cold season were observed when temperatures hovered near the zero curtain.

"This is extremely relevant for the Arctic ecosystem, as the zero curtain period continues from September until the end of December, lasting as long or longer than the entire summer season," said Zona, the study's first author. "These results are opposite of what modelers have been assuming, which is that the majority of methane emissions occur during the warm summer months, while the cold-season methane contribution is nearly zero."

Surprisingly, the researchers also found that during the cold season, methane emissions were higher at the drier, upland tundra sites than at wetland sites, contradicting yet another longstanding assumption about Arctic methane emission. This upland tundra was previously assumed to be a negligible contributor of methane, Zona said; adding that the freezing of the surface inhibits methane oxidation resulting in significant net methane emissions during the fall and winter. Plants act like chimneys facilitating the escape through the frozen layer to the atmosphere. The highest annual emissions were observed in the upland site in the foothills of the Brooks Range where warm soils and deep active layer resulted in high rates of methane production.

To complement and verify the on-the-ground study, University of Montana researchers John Kimball and Jennifer

Watts used satellite microwave sensor measurements to develop regional maps of surface water cover, including the timing, extent and duration of seasonal flooding and drying of the region's wetlands. Their use of low frequency microwave observations gave the team the ability to accurately map land surface inundation day and night under a variety of weather conditions.

"We were able to use the satellite data to show that the upland tundra areas that appear to be the larger methane sources from the on-the-ground instruments account for more than half of all the tundra in Alaska," Kimball said.

Finally, to test whether their site-specific sampling was representative of methane emissions across the Arctic, the researchers compared their results to measurements recorded during aircraft flights over the region made by NASA's Carbon in Arctic Reservoirs Vulnerability Experiment (CARVE).

"CARVE flights were designed to cover as much of the year as feasible," said CARVE Principal Investigator Charles E. Miller of JPL. "It was a challenging undertaking, involving hundreds of hours of flying in difficult conditions."

The data from the SDSU sites were well aligned with the larger-scale aircraft measurements, Zona said.

"CARVE aircraft measurements show that large areas of Arctic tundra and boreal forest continue to emit methane to the atmosphere at high rates long after the surface soil freezes," said Róisín Commane of Harvard University, who helped to acquire and analyze the aircraft data.

Oechel and Zona stressed the importance for climate modelers to have good baseline data on methane emissions and to adjust their models to account for Arctic cold-season methane emissions as well as the contributions of non-wetland areas, including upland tundra.

"It is now time to work more closely with climate modelers and assure these observations are used to improve model predictions, and refine our prediction of the global methane budget," Zona said.

It is particularly important, Oechel added, for models to get methane output right because the gas is a major driver of atmospheric warming.

"If you don't have the mechanism right, you won't be able to make future predictions based on these conditions," he said.

Steven Wofsy of Harvard University added: "Now that we know how important the winter is to the methane budget, we are working to determine the long-term trends in greenhouse emissions from tundra and their sensitivity to winter warming."

This research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA and the Department of Energy.

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UM Pharmacy Student Earns Immune System Research Funding

December 21, 2015

MISSOULA – A hardworking University of Montana undergraduate student will spend the next two and half years studying the hardest-working cell in the human immune system.

Shelby Cole, a first-year pharmacy student from **Malta**, recently was awarded an Undergraduate Diversity Student supplement by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



that will fund her own individual research project studying dendritic cells. Cole is Gros Ventre and Little Shell.

The funding comes as an administrative supplement to

UM Professor David Shepherd's five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, through which his team studies dendritic cells – cells that play a pivotal role in immune system interactions. The team's goal is to develop drugs that help control immune functions – whether limiting chronic inflammation, curing autoimmune diseases, combating an infectious disease or blocking the detrimental effects of different environmental pollutants.

"I'll be doing my own project while also contributing as a member of the lab," Cole said. "I'm very excited to make new discoveries especially if they lead to new ways to help people with immune-related diseases. I just really love doing research. It's extremely rewarding – even the tedious parts."

According to Shepherd, also a pre-pharmacy student adviser, it takes a certain kind of person to work in a research laboratory.

"She's a very bright, highly motivated, hardworking student who is becoming a fantastic scientist," Shepherd said of Cole.

Shepherd recruited Cole to work in his lab after identifying certain characteristics she has that he looks for when bringing a student onto his team.

"For me, it's about finding the talent and then giving them the opportunity to develop their abilities so they can shine," Shepherd said.

After a somewhat circuitous route – with stops first at Great Falls College, Dawson Community College and some exploratory classes with UM's law school – Cole finally landed with UM's pharmacy program.

Shepherd was Cole's adviser and took note of her sincere interest in wanting to try something new in her academic program. He asked her if she would have interest conducting research. She wanted to see what it was all about, so she signed up for some undergraduate research credits last spring. Her work in the spring helped her land a summer internship with UM's Center for Environmental Health Sciences working with UM Professor Celine Beamer studying the interactions between dendritic cells and innate lymphoid cells.

"At first I wanted to be a pharmacist back at my local IHS (Indian Health Services)," Cole said. "But after doing research, that's where I want to go now."

After showing she had the chops for research, Shepherd suggested they apply for the diversity student supplement.

The grant will fund Cole to work in the laboratory part time during the academic semester and then full time during winter and summer breaks. It also will provide her with incidental money that will help offset the costs of traveling to conferences to present her research to other scientists in the field, and allow her to attend a weeklong intensive immunology crash course in California this summer. The award requires the University to provide mentorship for Cole – which is being provided by Shepherd and UM's Native American Center of Excellence – and outreach opportunities that will hopefully offer Cole the chance to visit schools and share her research with people across Montana, including Native communities.

"To me she is just a hardworking, curious student," Shepherd said, "but there really is a bonus if, at some point, she can be a role model and open the eyes of children from underserved communities to the exciting possibilities that exist in research and at UM – that's all the better."

Cole says her grandmother encouraged her to pursue science as a career path.

"She is the one that has always pushed me to go to pharmacy school," Cole said. "She was definitely really excited when I told her I was doing research, probably the most excited out of my family."

For more information about the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences diversity supplement program, visit <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/training/supplements/>. To learn more about research taking place in Shepherd's lab, visit

<http://www.umt.edu/urelations/pubs/Vision%20magazine/Vision%202014/targeted%20response.php>.

Contact: David Shepherd, professor, UM Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-2224, dave.shepherd@umontana.edu; Shelby Cole, UM pharmacy student, shelby.cole@umconnect.umt.edu.

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UM Family Medicine Residency Program Interviews Record Number of Applicants

December 17, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana has received a record number of medical student applications this year. With more than 800 applicants for 10 training positions, the success of the nearly 3-year-old residency program is being felt and celebrated during this resident interviewing season.

FMRWM prepares family physicians with a focus on comprehensive training that is needed to practice effectively for rural and underserved areas in Montana.

The program welcomed its first class of 10 family medicine residents in July 2013, and the inaugural class will graduate at the end of June 2016. The creation of the program more than doubled the number of family medicine physicians being trained in Montana each year and is expected to have a significant impact on the state’s shortage of primary care doctors in rural communities.

“We have been very fortunate to have recruited the faculty and residents that have built the program to date, with a clear focus on our mission of training family physicians to practice in the rural and underserved communities of

Montana,” program director Dr. Ned Vasquez said. “Our recruiting season has been going very well, and we are optimistic about our prospects for recruiting a fourth excellent class.”

Program applicants undergo an intensive interview process, involving contact with current residents and faculty. The program especially strives to identify applicants who have some background or strong desire to work in rural areas.

Interviews began in October and will run through early January. Interviewees will be ranked and matched through the National Resident Matching Program, which provides an objective and fair process for matching applicants and residency programs. Notification of the match results will take place mid-March 2016, with a new class starting at the end of June 2016.

Headquartered in Missoula, FMRWM is sponsored by UM and affiliated with the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network. The program’s three sponsoring hospitals in western Montana include Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center. Residents are involved in continuity clinic training at Partnership Health Center in Missoula and Flathead Community Health Center in Kalispell.

Additionally, the program works with an extensive rural training network of nine sites, including Blackfeet Community Hospital, Northwest Community Health Center, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, St. Luke Community Healthcare, Community Physicians Group-Stevensville, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Community Hospital of Anaconda and Barrett Hospital and Healthcare.

For more information visit <http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/>.

Contact: Rebecca Morgan, project and communications manager, Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, 406-544-5085, rebecca.morgan@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Journalism Student Places Among Hearst Award Finalists

December 16, 2015

MISSOULA – Until spring semester 2015, University of Montana senior Kolby KickingWoman had not written a long-form feature during his time at the School of Journalism, focusing instead on short stories mostly about sports. Six months later, his first long-form story tied for 17th place in the Feature Writing competition of the prominent Hearst Journalism Awards.

The Hearst Journalism Awards are the most prestigious student journalism awards nationally. The story KickingWoman wrote was for the spring 2015 Native News project, a class that sends teams of journalism students – a writer paired with a photographer – out to each of Montana’s American Indian reservations.

Reporting from the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, KickingWoman and his partner, photographer Celia Talbot Tobin, told the stories of tribal members navigating questions of sexual and gender identity. One storyline followed a transgender teen attending her first prom.

“I had a lot of fun doing that story,” KickingWoman said. He is pleased to have won an award for a piece where he found both the subject matter and the length of the writing to be a challenge. “It was kind of outside my comfort

zone.”

Tobin said KickingWoman’s personality helped them access the student and earn trust, allowing for a good feature story. She described KickingWoman as easy-going and sensitive to her needs as a photographer.

“He’s a really good people person, which came in handy a lot as I was trying to be invisible and photograph and film people,” Tobin said. “He is really, really good at engaging with subjects, being interested in them.”

As a graduate student with a background in freelance photography, Tobin enjoyed watching someone with experience writing shorter pieces weave a compelling narrative of this length.

“I think it’s a strong story and a really unique one that hasn’t been told before,” Tobin said.

KickingWoman grew up in Missoula, but his father is from Browning. It was rewarding to place in the Hearst awards with a story representing the Blackfeet Nation, he said.

To read KickingWoman’s story, view Tobin’s photos and learn more about the Native News project, visit <http://nativenews.jour.umt.edu/2015/growing-up-coming-out-navigating-sexual-and-gender-identity-as-a-youth-on-the-blackfeet-reservation/>.

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UM Native American Student Advisory Council Welcomes Participation

December 15, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Native American Student Advisory Council, which seeks to provide a more prominent Native American voice on campus, invites community members to participate with input.

UM President Royce Engstrom, Provost Perry Brown and Vice President for Student Affairs Teresa Branch established the NASAC in 2014 to enhance opportunities for Native American students, to address areas of concern and to provide input on strategic planning. The council advises UM administrators on matters related to Native American student life.

“The Native American Student Advisory Council members bring such important perspectives to the UM governance system,” NASAC co-adviser Kathryn Shanley said. “They represent many tribal nations, many academic disciplines and many diverse social realms. We’re looking forward to the powerful ideas and visions they will have to share with the University as a whole and the administration in general.”

The council is comprised of both undergraduate and graduate students who represent Native American student organizations and other relevant programs across campus. The NASAC also includes several at-large members

nominated by other students or themselves to serve on the council.

Anyone with feedback, suggestions or concerns is encouraged to email NASAC Chair Iva Croff at iva.croff@umontana.edu or NASAC Vice-Chair Antonio Morsette at antonio.morsette@umontana.edu.

Contact: Iva Croff, UM Native American Student Advisory Council chair, 406-868-0038, iva.croff@umontana.edu; Antonio Morsette, NASAC vice-chair, 406-945-0069, antonio.morsette@umontana.edu.



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UM Philanthropy Class Awards \$10,000 in Grants to Local Nonprofits

December 15, 2015

MISSOULA – A University of Montana class will hold a ceremony at 9:10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, in the Davidson Honors College Ephron Student Lounge to award \$10,000 to local nonprofits.

The class, Engaging Social Responsibility through Philanthropy, which is part of UM's Global Leadership Initiative, awards grants to nonprofits that operate within Missoula County and address issues related to the environment or health. Sixteen Missoula nonprofit organizations submitted grant proposals to the class earlier this semester.

This semester's grantees are:

- **Native Generational Change:** \$3,775 to fund the Mentorship Program.
- **Garden City Harvest:** \$3,775 to support the Youth Farm Program.
- **Youth Homes:** \$2,450 to fund InnerRoads Wilderness Program.

Engaging Social Responsibility through Philanthropy addresses social responsibility and community building through work in the nonprofit sector. Students spent the semester learning about the general influence philanthropy has on

social improvement, researching nonprofit work and specific community needs in Missoula County, and completing a service-learning project.

Andrea Vernon, the director of UM's Office for Civic Engagement, and communication studies Professor Gregory Larson secured the grant money for the class from the Learning by Giving Foundation. The foundation promotes undergraduate study of philanthropy at colleges and universities nationwide.

"This class immerses students in the Missoula community and allows them to not only study various challenges we face, but to begin to think about creative ways philanthropy can be part of the solution," Vernon said. "The students learn so much by actively engaging in the learning experience and connecting with the community."

The Global Leadership Initiative is a four-year program open to UM students of all majors. Through the GLI program students participate in thought-provoking seminars, become involved in internships and community work, have the opportunity to study abroad affordably and learn skills necessary to be leaders in a global community.

For more information call Vernon at 406-243-5159 or email andrea.vernon@umontana.edu.

Contact: Andrea Vernon, director, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5159, andrea.vernon@mso.umt.edu.



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Kauffman Foundation Awards UM Grant to Research Women in Entrepreneurship

December 11, 2015

MISSOULA – The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a leader in advancing education and entrepreneurship, recently awarded the University of Montana’s Blackstone LaunchPad a \$25,000 grant to further understand women’s participation in pre-entrepreneurial stages.

Blackstone LaunchPad aims to help UM students and alumni jump-start their own businesses by nurturing young entrepreneurs and providing them the skills and network necessary to succeed. They will use the one-year grant to better understand why female students may choose not to engage and to foster better participation by women in entrepreneurial programs.

Research shows that women are less likely to become entrepreneurs, and the disparities between men’s and women’s entrepreneurial inclinations appear at the earliest stages of the process. UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the Blackstone LaunchPad will administer the grant and conduct the research.

“Our Blackstone LaunchPad data show only 28 percent of students registered in our program are women, and just 31 percent of students, staff, faculty and alumni who are registered in our program are women,” said Paul Gladen,

Blackstone LaunchPad director. “These data mirror national data of women in entrepreneurship, and that’s a real problem when women-owned businesses make a huge difference in our local communities and beyond.”

National data from the American Community Survey, which can be accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_B24090&prodType=table, show women comprise only 35 percent of self-employed workers.

“When we examine barriers that prevent women from engaging in entrepreneurship outlined by the Small Business Administration, we see women have more domestic responsibilities than men, they are more risk averse than men, they face more discrimination than men and more,” said Bryce Ward, BBER associate director. “However, a startup incubator like Blackstone LaunchPad is pretty low-risk and knocks down some of those barriers, so why aren’t the numbers different? Or, how can we make those numbers different?”

BBER and Blackstone LaunchPad have designed a one-year research plan to better understand why female students may choose not to engage in entrepreneurship and to pilot and test various activities and initiatives to increase female participation. The plan includes:

- A survey of UM and Montana State University students.
- Development, implementation and evaluation of a system for increasing female engagement with Blackstone LaunchPad.
- Development and implementation of a rigorous method for tracking LaunchPad participants through the startup process and evaluating that data for evidence of gendered barriers.

UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad is designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path and develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets through individualized coaching, ideation and venture creation support. Developed as part of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation’s Entrepreneurship Initiative, the program currently is available to over 350,000 students on 15 campuses in six regions across the country. For more information visit <http://www.umt.edu/launchpad/>.

BBER is a research department within UM’s School of Business Administration that produces a variety of economic and industry data including annual economic forecasts for the United States as well as Montana, its industries and its counties. For more information visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu/>.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private, nonpartisan foundation that aims to foster economic independence by advancing educational achievement and entrepreneurial success. Founded by late entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Foundation is based in Kansas City, Missouri, and has approximately \$2 billion in assets. For more information visit <http://www.kauffman.org/>.

###

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UM's English Language Institute Encourages International Friendships

December 11, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana English Language Institute seeks volunteers during spring semester 2016 to share culture, language and friendship with students from around the world for its Community Conversation Partner Program.

The Community Conversation Partner Program pairs ELI students with Missoula locals and UM students. Participants in this program meet for eight weeks in one-hour sessions and enjoy sports events, game nights, tours and other activities. Applications are available to community members and UM students through Jan. 25.

The program provides volunteers the opportunity to interact with international students from countries such as Japan, Taiwan, China, Saudi Arabia and Korea. Participants can improve their understanding of and communication with other cultures, add global competency to their resume and make lifelong international friends.

“Conversation Partners opened my eyes to a new perspective in global education and left me new with friends from all around the world,” said Zach Leopard, a volunteer in the program.

UM's ELI has been a part of the Office of International Programs for more than 20 years and serves non-native English speakers by helping them improve language and academic skills.

For more information about the program and to pick up an application, call English Language Institute Program Coordinator Rae Brouwer at 406-243-6141 or email rachel.brouwer@mso.umt.edu.

###

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Record Number of High School Students Attend Model UN Conference at UM

December 10, 2015

MISSOULA – A record 431 students from 20 high schools across three states participated in the Montana Model United Nations 50th Annual High School Conference, held at the University of Montana Nov. 23-24.

High school students from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming represented 124 of the UN's 193 member states as they debated and wrote resolutions addressing important international issues. UM students enrolled in a Model United Nations course offered by the Department of Political Science staffed the conference.

Keynote speaker Joanna Shelton, a former deputy secretary general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris and deputy assistant secretary of state for trade policy under the George H.W. Bush and Clinton administrations, delivered a talk, "Global Cooperation in a Fragmenting World."

The conference concluded with an awards ceremony honoring the top school delegations and students. Six schools received designations of outstanding (top 10 percent), distinguished (top 20 percent) and honorable (top 30 percent).

Large delegation (schools with 17 or more delegates):

1. Outstanding: Flathead High School, **Kalispell**
2. Distinguished: Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, **Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**
3. Honorable: Sentinel High School, Missoula
4. Honorable: Big Sky High School, Missoula

Small delegation (schools with 16 or fewer delegates):

1. Outstanding: Hamilton Christian Academy, **Hamilton**
2. Distinguished: Whitefish High School, **Whitefish**
3. Honorable: Valley Christian School, Missoula

The following students were named Top 20 Seniors and received medals at the ceremony. In addition, the top five seniors received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend UM.

1. Abby Barnett, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, Antigua and Barbuda
2. Josie Jolly, Glacier High School, France
3. Jeremy Heng, Hellgate High School, United States
4. Kendra Wilke, Flathead High School, New Zealand
5. Nolan Jenko, Big Sky High School, Chad
6. Emily Getts, Columbia Falls High School, Hungary
7. Connor Wingred, Big Sky High School, Norway
8. Sara Ward, Flathead High School, Laos
9. Emma Harrison, Hellgate High School, United States
10. Maddie Mann, Jefferson High School, Ghana
11. Frances Cronin, Bozeman High School, Mexico
12. Sabrina Collier, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, Japan
13. Aidan Reed, Helena High School, Jordan
14. Liz Williams, Sentinel High School, Egypt
15. Ben Wright, Glacier High School, Ivory Coast

16. Brenna DeMarois, Sentinel High School, Egypt
17. Conor Cox, Sentinel High School, China
18. Jada Douglas, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, Japan
19. Shannon Isadora, Hellgate High School, United States
20. Max Thibeau, Sentinel High School, China

The complete list of awards presented at the 2015 conference is online at <http://hs.umt.edu/mun/hs-conference/awards-2015.php>. For more information call Eric Hines, UM political science assistant professor, at 406-243-4076 or email eric.hines@umontana.edu.

Contact: Eric Hines, UM political science assistant professor, 406-243-4076, eric.hines@umontana.edu.



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Montana Victim Advocate Academy at UM Earns Funding for Four More Years

December 10, 2015

MISSOULA – The Montana Board of Crime Control recently announced it will award annual funding for an additional four years the Institute for Educational Research and Service, a specialty unit of the University of Montana’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. The grant will ensure the continuation of the annual Montana Victim Advocate Academy.

The MVAA, originally funded by a grant from the U.S. Office of Victims of Crime, is a weeklong training for advocates in governmental or nonprofit agencies who work with victims across the range of crimes and jurisdictional systems.

The first two annual MVAAs, held in 2014 and 2015, prepared 48 advocates working in 38 Montana counties to represent the interests of victims. Recognizing the vital necessity of continued victim advocate training, MBCC agreed to provide funds to support MVAA program costs through 2018.

“This funding renewal for the annual Montana Victim Advocate Academy means our communities can continue to put the needs of crime victims first,” said Attorney General Tim Fox. “This is good news for Montana’s law

enforcement agencies, and we thank the Montana Board of Crime Control for its strong commitment to supporting the rights of victims while we work simultaneously to bring criminals to justice.”

A 40-hour, five-day residential course, MVAA is designed to provide basic knowledge and skills for individuals with fewer than three years of experience in the field of victim services. MVAA faculty members are Montana leaders in legal, social work and academic communities. The curriculum is based on the National Victim Assistance Academy, which was developed by the U.S. Office of Victims of Crime. IERS adapted the curriculum to include Montana-specific content.

“By adapting the National Victim Assistance Academy curriculum to meet the unique needs of Montanans, we provide a common core of proven advocacy strategies,” IERS Director Rick van den Pol said. “The faculty of the Montana academy brings unique expertise adapting the national curriculum to meet our cultural, geographic and economic needs.”

IERS also will partner with UM’s School of Social Work to focus on development of an advocate supervision component. Ryan Tolleson Knee, chair of UM’s School of Social Work said, “The School of Social Work anticipates strengthening the existing partnerships with IERS and MBCC to develop an advanced training curriculum and opportunities for professionalization to help ensure that quality social services are delivered throughout Montana.”

In addition to supporting program costs for planning and hosting the academy at UM, MBCC funds will be used to supplement trainees’ registration and travel expenses.

“MVAA is committed to providing consistent training to victim advocates that advances professionalism through a research-based, high-quality curriculum and the use of expert faculty from around the state,” said Brooke Marshall, academy co-director. “This funding will allow MVAA to continue implementing a strategic plan to provide sustainable, evidence-based training for state victim assistance providers, and it will allow us to expand our reach to include county attorneys, judges, child advocates and other criminal justice professionals. We are grateful to the Montana Board of Crime Control for supporting this critical work.”

For more information on the Montana Victim Assistance Academy or the Institute for Educational Research and Service, visit <http://iers.umt.edu/> or call 406-243-4973.

Contact: Brooke Marshall, director, Montana Safe Schools Center, and co-director, Montana Victim Advocate Academy, 406-243-5344, brooke.marshall@mso.umt.edu; Nancy Berg, associate to the director, UM Institute for Educational Research and Service, 406-243-4973, nancy.berg@mso.umt.edu.

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UM Study: Plants Absorb Less Carbon Dioxide Than Models Show

December 09, 2015

MISSOULA – While global plant growth has increased slightly during the past 30 years, researchers at the University of Montana found it hasn't increased as much as some scientists predicted.

Former UM doctoral student Bill Smith and current UM Professors Cory Cleveland, Ashley Ballantyne and Steve Running studied the relationship between atmospheric carbon dioxide from human emissions and a corresponding growth in plant life, and they compared their results with existing models. The study was published this month in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Carbon dioxide enhances plant growth, and plants absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide. Smith and the study co-authors compared measurements of plant productivity estimated by models with those measured by satellites. They concluded that current models unrealistically overpredict the ability of plants to offset growing greenhouse gas emissions, suggesting that the earth's capacity to take up future carbon dioxide emissions may be less than previously thought.

"Current earth-system models assume that global plant growth will provide the tremendous benefit of offsetting a

significant portion of humanity's CO₂ emissions, thus buying us much-needed time to curb emissions," Smith said. "Unfortunately, our observation-based estimates of global vegetation growth indicate that plant growth may not buy us as much time as expected, [so] action to curb emissions is all the more urgent."

The authors identify two important factors that could drive the divergence between satellite-based results and model-based results: availability of water and availability of nutrients. Satellite data indicate warmer climate conditions resulting from rising atmospheric carbon dioxide may increase stress in plant water, counteracting any positive effect of carbon dioxide. Additionally, limited availability of nitrogen and phosphorus in the environment also could limit the ability of plants to soak up additional carbon dioxide.

These findings indicate that current climate models do not accurately predict future plant growth and suggest that allowable emissions targets based on these models may need re-evaluation. The authors recommend better integration among model, satellite and on-the-ground measurement approaches to improve our understanding of the effects of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide on plant growth.

The work provides an important step toward understanding how plants may respond (or not respond) to rising atmospheric carbon dioxide, as well as highlights ways scientists from different specialties can work together to reach a deeper understanding of how ecosystems will respond to global change, says Sasha Reed, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist and a co-author of the paper.

"We have many scientific tools in our toolbox," Reed said, "and bringing them together is a powerful approach to asking questions and to solving problems."

Running said the study could help researchers understand how Montana forests and crops will respond to the changing climate.

"While increasing CO₂ does aid photosynthesis, the changing climate is reducing growing season water supplies," he said. "The result will help form policies for forest, range and water management."

Running suggests that satellite-derived measurements might, for now, be a more accurate way to measure how carbon dioxide fertilization impacts global terrestrial ecosystems.

The full article is available online at <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2879.html>.

Contact: Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology, 406-243-6311, steve.running@umontana.edu; Cory Cleveland, UM associate professor of biogeochemistry, 406-243-6018, cory.cleveland@umontana.edu.

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UM Now Offers Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience

December 07, 2015

MISSOULA – Students attending the University of Montana can now earn an undergraduate degree in neuroscience, the study of the nervous system and the brain.

The interdisciplinary major, approved by the Montana Board of Regents earlier this year, draws from courses in multiple University departments, mainly biomedical sciences, psychology and biology. The major also requires courses in chemistry, math and physics and offers elective courses ranging from kinesiology and health to behavioral economics, literature and dance. UM will offer four new courses developed for the major, including From Molecules to Mind: Fundamentals of Neuroscience and Central Nervous System Diseases.

"The courses offer a range of different perspectives on the brain, mind and behaviors," said Jesse Hay, biology professor and program director. "You need to have a broad-ranging university with many areas of expertise to offer a comprehensive degree like this. It's really taking advantage of the strengths of multiple departments and people across campus."

Students can choose from two tracks: cognitive and behavioral neuroscience or cellular and molecular

neuroscience. The first option prepares students for careers in human-centered neuroscience fields, such as occupational, physical and speech therapy and counseling. Graduates who earn degrees in the cellular and molecular neuroscience option can pursue careers in fields such as medicine and biomedical research. Either track provides an entryway into science writing, patent law or entrepreneurial endeavors related to brain science.

Psychology Professor Allen Szalda-Petree advises students on the cognitive and behavioral track, while Hay oversees the cellular and molecular option.

"Neuroscience is a rapidly growing area of health care," Hay said. "The job forecast is really good right now. It's been growing for decades and is projected to continue to grow by at least 13 percent in the current decade."

For more information call Hay at 406-243-2381 or email jesse.hay@umontana.edu. Program details also are online at <http://hs.umt.edu/neuroscience/>.

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UM Exhibit Features Majestic Art of the American West

December 07, 2015

MISSOULA – From Glacier National Park to the Pueblos of New Mexico, “Glorious Vista: Art of the American West from the Permanent Collection” explores the geography and people of the Rocky Mountain West during the 19th and 20th centuries. Sixty landscapes and historical depictions of Native peoples will be on view beginning Thursday, Jan. 7, at the University of Montana’s Montana Museum of Art & Culture.

An opening reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 7 in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Lobby on the UM campus. The exhibition and opening reception are free and open to the public.

The six-week show includes oil paintings, photography, watercolors, lithographs and cast bronzes, many of which have never been publicly viewed.

“The landscapes of the American West have excited artists for centuries,” exhibition curator Cheryl Leibold said. “It was rewarding to select the works for this exhibition and in the process examine how artists depict the history of the West with widely different perspectives.”

In the mid-19th century, artists like George Catlin and John Mix Stanley journeyed to the West to record its landscape and Native cultures. Leibold said the resulting works aroused the interest of East Coast audiences, inspiring subsequent romantic painters whose large-scale canvases “embellished and partially invented the western landscape.”

Canvases by Edgar Paxson, Joseph Henry Sharp, Ralph Earl DeCamp and others in the Meloy Gallery will combine to show the backdrop that enticed many west. Prints, paintings and sculptures of cowboys and Native Americans by Charles M. Russell, Ace Powell, Nancy McLaughlin and George Catlin round out this show in the Paxson Gallery to give a face to individuals who made history in the broader American West.

MMAC Interim Curator of Art Jeremy Canwell will launch a tour of the exhibition at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the PARTV Center lobby. The tour is open to the public.

The museum also will present a lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 16, titled “Nature and Culture in the Northern Rocky Mountains” by Michael Duchemin, executive director of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. It will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the PARTV Center’s Montana Theatre.

“From documenting Native American tribal identities to rallying support behind conservation and the National Parks movement, see how art in the West evolved to create a regional aesthetic that remains influential today,” Leibold said.

“We are very excited to present images of the landscapes and people of the West that are some of the jewels within the Permanent Collection,” MMAC Director Barbara Koostra said. “We’re grateful to Cheryl Leibold, retired archivist of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, for her curatorial efforts.”

MMAC academic-year gallery hours are noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested \$5 donation. Public docent tours will take place at 5:30pm on Thursday, January 21 and Thursday, February 18. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

###

Note to media: Digital images from the exhibition are available by calling 406-243-2019 or emailing jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu.

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Hamilton Students to Experience STEM, Entrepreneurship at UM Dec. 7

December 04, 2015

MISSOULA – More than 100 eighth graders from **Hamilton** Middle School will visit the University of Montana to experience a day of STEM, entrepreneurship and higher education on Monday, Dec. 7.

During morning lab tours the visiting students will meet UM faculty members and graduate students and learn about research opportunities at UM. Guided by faculty and graduate student lab hosts, students will learn about the health sciences with SimMan, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy's patient simulator; explore the night sky in UM's planetarium while learning about undergraduate research through the observatory for exoplanet detection, Project MINERVA; use an electron microscope to study objects far too small to see with the naked eye; explore neurology through fruit fly research; and learn about animal weapons by handling live and pinned insects.

A lunchtime entrepreneurship panel will feature local business, health care and research leaders, including VIZn Energy board chairman Craig Wilkins, Swan Valley Medical President and CEO Ronald Zook, Rivertop Renewables Research Scientist Kelly Barton and Bradley Berry, a cardiologist at Providence St. Patrick Hospital's International Heart Institute and a graduate of Hamilton High School.

Undergraduate student ambassadors from UM Admissions will lead afternoon campus tours, culminating in a visit to John Hoyt Field at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

The event is organized by We Are Montana in the Classroom, a program of the UM Broader Impacts Group that places UM faculty members, graduate students and professionals in K-12 classrooms to inspire students about higher education and career pathways. This fall, We Are Montana in the Classroom has reached over 5,000 students through statewide tours, local classroom visits and distance-learning experiences.

Broader Impacts Group Director Holly Truitt said the goal of the program is to get middle school students excited about higher education while preparing them for the many educational career options available to them beyond high school.

"We're delighted to host Hamilton's eighth grade on campus to share with them the extraordinary opportunities in STEM and entrepreneurship that await them at UM," Truitt said.

Chad DeLong, owner of Sustainable Efficiency Inc., said he believes co-sponsoring the event is a valuable investment.

"This is just one of many efforts by both the private and public sectors to build upon the great job that K-12 educators are doing and to show our kids that Montana has world-class educational institutions, world-class companies and is a great place for entrepreneurial ideas to flourish," DeLong said.

K-12 teachers can learn more about the array of free programs offered through We Are Montana in the Classroom by emailing Program Manager Nathalie Wolfram at nathalie.wolfram@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Nathalie Wolfram, We Are Montana in the Classroom program manager, 406-370-7731, nathalie.wolfram@umontana.edu.



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Salesforce Executive Peter Coffee to Deliver a Big Data Lecture

December 04, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s leading research and programmatic development in big data has gained the attention of a top executive at Salesforce. Peter Coffee, vice president for strategic research, will visit UM on Monday, Dec. 7, to deliver a talk about how big data is transforming society.

Coffee will present “Big Data Goes to Work: Liberating Latent Value in a Connected World” from 3:10. to 4 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 106. A reception will follow from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Davidson Honors College Lounge. Both events are free and open to the public.

The presentation is part of UM’s Mathematical Sciences Colloquium, organized by UM math Professor Leonid Kalachev. It will focus on the ways data helps businesses document past behaviors, seek opportunities and build predictive tools that have the power to change behaviors and create new value.

With revenue of more than \$6 billion annually and a market capitalization of \$53 billion, Salesforce has established itself as an undisputed thought leader in cloud-computing and customer relationship management software.

Coffee's UM presentation is the result of a conversation that started more than a year ago between Coffee, Kalachev and Brian Steele, a UM math professor involved in teaching big data courses, Kalachev said.

In addition to the work done by the mathematics department, UM has established numerous interdisciplinary programs in the big data space, including computer science, marketing and management information systems.

UM's School of Business Administration offers a certificate degree in big data analytics and is close to finalizing a Master's of Science in Business Analytics, said David Firth, a UM professor of management information systems.

Missoula tech company ATG will sponsor the reception following Coffee's lecture. ATG has been the beneficiary of numerous graduates from these programs.

"The University of Montana has been a key component to ATG's dramatic growth over the past few years, and much of our work is within the Salesforce ecosystem," ATG Vice President Tom Stergios said. "We are excited to hear what will come out of the collaboration between Salesforce and the University of Montana."

For more information call Kalachev at 406-243-4373 or email kalachev@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Leonid Kalachev, professor/chair, UM Department of Mathematics, 406-243-4373, kalachev@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Dining to Host Annual UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off

December 04, 2015

MISSOULA – The 18th annual Great UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off, hosted by UM Dining, will take place from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, in the Lommasson Center's Food Zoo Dining Room at the University of Montana. This year's event, themed "The Grinch," is open to all UM students, faculty, staff and their families.

As event sponsor, Sysco food service of Montana, will donate 798 pounds of cookie dough ingredients and decorations. Guests may bring home up to half of the cookies they bake, and the other half will be donated to local youth homes, senior homes, group shelters and other nonprofit organizations.

"The only thing participants need to bring is their holiday spirit," UM Dining Director of Marketing Sam Belanger said.

Every year, more than 30 campus departments participate in this event, and as a result, about 300 dozen cookies are donated to 16 local charities. In addition to cookie making, there will be beverages, music and a children's play area.

For more information, call Belanger at 406-243-5089 or email samuel1.belanger@umontana.edu.

Contact: Sam Belanger, director of marketing, UM Dining, 406-243-5089, samuel1.belanger@umontana.edu.



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UM Professor Publishes Book on China's Evolving Climate Change Policy

December 04, 2015

MISSOULA – As representatives from nearly 200 countries and other organizations gather for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, University of Montana political science Professor Peter Koehn has published a new book called “China Confronts Climate Change: A Bottom-up Perspective.”

As the world's largest greenhouse-gas emitter, China will play a key role in any movement to stabilize global climate conditions so they are suitable for sustainable development, for its own population and the world. Koehn's study shows that in China, as in the United States, impressive and often unrecognized steps to limit emissions are being taken at subnational levels. His book, published as part of the Routledge Advances in Climate Change Research series and available online at <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138942097>, also argues that more can – and must – be done. One promising strategy involves appeals to China's citizen concerns about the health consequences of living in some of the worst urban air pollution conditions in the world.

Koehn's book already has garnered praise from academics and policymakers. Dan Esty, the Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy at Yale University, writes that “‘China Confronts Climate Change’ digs beneath the surface of what many have perceived as China's indifference to its huge greenhouse gas emissions – and finds a

reality that is more complex.”

Zhihong Zhang, senior program coordinator of Climate Investment Funds at the World Bank Group, notes the book “provides a refreshing look at the non-state actors and subnational and transnational efforts and what a ‘bottom-up’ approach can offer in addressing climate change challenges.”

The book’s grassroots insights likely will sustain interest because, as Center for Climate and Energy Solutions’ Ellie Ramm foresees in a Nov. 30 blog post, “long after the Paris talks have concluded, these actors will be crucial to building sustainable solutions to our climate and energy challenges.”

Along with his colleagues in UM’s Political Science Department, Koehn believes in sharing research findings on current issues of global importance with his students. This summer, he will teach a course, Sustainable Climate Policies: China and the United States, designed for undergraduate students in disciplines across campus.

“The steps taken or not taken by China and the United States will make a huge difference in terms of climate change,” Koehn said. “I’m eager to discuss the insights reported in my new book with concerned students this summer.”

Contact: Peter Koehn, UM political science professor, 406-243-5294, peter.koehn@umontana.edu.



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Country Star Luke Bryan Adds Second UM Show

December 03, 2015

Country music sensation Luke Bryan has added a second concert at the University of Montana Adams Center as part of his "Kill the Lights" tour. He now will play shows on both Wednesday and Thursday, April 20 and 21. Tickets for both shows go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4.

The opening acts will be Little Big Town and Dustin Lynch.

Tickets will be available by visiting <http://www.griztix.com>, calling 888-666-8262 or purchasing at all GrizTix locations, including Missoula's Worden's Market, the University Center Source, Southgate Mall and the MSO Hub.

Bryan is the reigning County Music Association Entertainer of the Year and a two-time Academy of Country Music Entertainer of the Year. His hits include "Rain is a Good Thing," "Someone Else Calling You Baby," "Crash My Party" and "Strip it Down."

Bryan has sold more than 7 million albums and 27 million singles worldwide. The singer-songwriter has released five studio albums, including 2015's "Kill the Lights."

###

Contact: Marlene Hendrickson, UM Productions adviser, 406-243-5448, marlene.hendrickson@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Productions Brings Allen Stone Concert to Dennison Theatre

December 03, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana Productions will host soulful singer-songwriter Allen Stone in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at UM's Dennison Theatre. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

Stone proves himself deeply devoted to making uncompromisingly soulful music that transcends all pop convention. Stone's debut album for Capitol Records, "Radius," marks the follow-up to the self-released "Chewelah," a 2011 album that climbed to the top 10 on Billboard's Heatseekers chart and gained acclaim from renowned rock critic Ann Powers, whose NPR review hailed Stone as "meant for those of us who like our R&B slightly unkempt and exceedingly feelingful."

Tickets are on sale now and cost \$20 for UM students and \$25 for the general public, plus ticketing fees. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.umt.edu/griztix/>, by calling 406-243-4051 or 888-MONTANA (888-666-8262) during regular business hours. They also can be purchased in person at any of the following GrizTix outlets: The Source at the University Center, Worden's Market, Southgate Mall and MSO HUB.

For more information email UM Productions Marketing Coordinator Channele Paakkonen at

marketing@umproductions.org.

Contact: Channele Paakkonen, UM Productions marketing coordinator, marketing@umproductions.org.



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UM Researcher, NASA Team Discover How Water Escapes From Saturn

December 03, 2015

MISSOULA – A University of Montana professor who studies astrophysics has discovered how water ions escape from Saturn’s environment. His findings recently were published in the journal Nature Physics.

UM Professor Daniel Reisenfeld is a member of the Cassini research team. Cassini is a NASA-managed probe that studies Saturn. It has been in orbit continuously collecting data since 2004.

One of the instruments on Cassini measures the planet’s magnetosphere – the charged particles, known as plasma, that are trapped in the space surrounding Saturn by its magnetic field. One of Cassini’s past discoveries is that Saturn’s plasma comprises water ions, which are derived from Saturn’s moon Enceladus, which spews water vapors from its Yellowstone-like geysers. Knowing that the water ions would not be able to accumulate indefinitely, the team of researchers set out to explain how the water ions escape from Saturn’s magnetosphere.

The answers to this phenomenon were published by Nature Physics in an article titled “Cassini in situ observations of long-duration magnetic reconnection in Saturn’s magnetotail.” The article can be read online at <http://www.nature.com/nphys/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nphys3565.html>.

In the paper, the authors explain that the plasma found a place to exhaust out of the magnetosphere at a reconnection point – basically where magnetic fields from one environment disconnect and reconnect with magnetic fields from another environment. In the case of Saturn, researchers discovered the reconnection point was located at the back of the planet, where the magnetotail was connecting with the solar winds' magnetic field.

Reisenfeld likens the situation to a rotary or a traffic circle. Once you get into the rotary you have limited exit points.

"If you can't find the exit, you keep going around in circles," he said. "So, the plasma around Saturn is basically trapped to go around the rotary. We assumed it had to escape somehow and somewhere, but actually finding the jettison point is pretty cool."

Saturn is a very rapidly rotating planet. This discovery will help scientists understand the physics of how other rapid rotators such as Jupiter, stars and pulsars expel their materials and the details of how it works.

"It's very exciting to have discovered this reconnection location because reconnection is one of the holy grails of plasma physics," Reisenfeld said.

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Missoula College Offers New Computerized Tomography Certificate Program

December 03, 2015

MISSOULA – Montana communities now have the opportunity to invest in their workforce and in the future of radiology. Missoula College of the University of Montana will offer the state's first online Computerized Tomography certificate beginning spring semester 2016.

CT is an imaging procedure that uses special X-ray equipment to create detailed, cross-sectional scans of areas inside the body. The five-credit CT certificate, which fulfills the new American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification requirements, will be available to registered and licensed radiologic technologists and current MC radiology students. The AART requirements will take effect in January 2016.

"More and more jobs are beginning to require a CT certificate," said Anne Delaney, director of MC's Radiologic Technology program. "This is a perfect solution for rural hospitals that have a CT scanner but are in need of certified CT technologists."

The program is a direct response to changing industry standards, which soon will require a classroom component in addition to traditional on-the-job training. The college hopes to attract current professionals working in urban and rural areas across the state through its online course offerings and flexible clinical placement opportunities.

“Missoula College is in a unique position to provide that,” said Dan Funsch, clinical coordinator of MC’s Radiologic Technology program. “Rural facilities find it difficult to retain certified and qualified technicians in CT, and our program will generate a pool of qualified technologists.”

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry has agreed to work with employers to set up an apprenticeship model for qualified candidates, helping them earn while they learn. The apprenticeship agreement would codify a probationary period, incremental wage increases, a requirement to pass the certification exam and a requirement to work for an agreed-upon amount of time once the training is complete. Some employers may sponsor the additional certification of current radiology technicians.

“Montana will be facing a workforce shortage over the next decade in the health care industry,” said Labor and Industry Commissioner Pam Bucy. “Through the Department of Labor and Industry’s collaboration with the Montana University System to train health care professionals, our rural communities will have the skilled and qualified technicians needed for their hospitals and clinics.”

For more information about MC’s health professions programs, call Delaney at 406-243-7809 or email anne.delaney@umontana.edu.

Contact: Nicky Ouellet, Missoula College media and communications coordinator, 603-568-6155, nicky.ouellet@umconnect.umt.edu.



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Mansfield Center Announces January Conference on Diplomacy

December 03, 2015

MISSOULA – Experts in foreign policy, culture and history will join internationally renowned artists for a unique Mansfield Center conference that will blend world-class discussions with world-class performances to explore the impact of the arts and cultural exchanges on international relations, politics and societies.

The one-day Art of Diplomacy Conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, 2016, in the University Center Ballroom at the University of Montana. Sessions are free and open to the public, but participants are asked to register online at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/> to ensure space at panels and a lunch reception.

International relations long have been shaped by official diplomatic and economic engagements, as well as cultural and artistic interactions that have a profound impact on people. These creative channels frequently facilitate greater communication, understanding and cooperation between communities. They also can disrupt or even subvert as they inject new ideas and alternative cultural understandings.

The conference will feature topics such as “The Importance of the Impact of Cultural Diplomacy,” “Bridging the Chasm: How Creative Exchanges Connect Divergent Communities” and “The Power of Art and Statecraft.” Panels

and discussions will be interwoven with performances and firsthand accounts from artists who currently bridge communities and build understanding through their international performances and work.

The Art of Diplomacy is part of the Vienna International Ballet Experience that will be held in the U.S. for the first time in Missoula Jan. 12-16. This multiday competition and dance festival will bring up to 400 children and adult participants from the around the world and is under the direction of Gregor Hatala and Evelyn Teri from Vienna, Austria. It will be hosted by Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre and Destination Missoula.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield’s career. More information is available at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/>.

Contact: Abraham Kim, director, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2988, abraham.kim@umontana.edu.



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SpectrUM's 'Motion' Exhibit Travels to Stevensville

December 02, 2015

MISSOULA – “Motion,” one of the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s popular traveling exhibits, will visit **Stevensville** Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 8-10.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, “Motion” will transform the Stevensville Middle School lobby into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well and spectrUM’s ever-popular flight simulator. This tour stop is powered by the Jane S. Heman Foundation.

Students will be able to share the exhibition and activities with families, friends and community members at a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in the same location.

An interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula, spectrUM is committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, serving more than 50,000 Montanans annually through its in-museum and mobile programs.

Since 2006, spectrUM has brought interactive exhibits and educators to 71 schools and four public libraries in 30 Montana counties and all seven American Indian reservations. SpectrUM's mobile science program has served more than 51,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities.

SpectrUM Director Holly Truitt said the goal of spectrUM's mobile outreach is to "help inspire Montana's next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries."

SpectrUM's sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Community Medical Center, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 12,000 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs \$3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu>.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, spectrUM STEM education program manager, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.



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Lake County High School Students to Explore Health Care Careers

December 01, 2015

MISSOULA – Forty Ronan and Charlo high school students will take part in the Research and Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare program at St. Luke Community Healthcare in Ronan on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Students will spend a full day at St. Luke working in teams, rotating through a variety of departments. St. Luke health care professionals will provide a close-up view of job duties, daily practice, policy and procedures, and explain the education and training required for their positions.

Maggie Roddam, St. Luke respiratory therapist, is choreographing the day's events to include student visits to radiology, physical therapy, laboratory and emergency room departments. This year, students also will attend a session hosted by dentist Gayle Siemers and assistant Micayla Pretty On Top.

REACH was developed by the Montana Area Health Education Center in 2007 to meet a growing need for health care workers by giving students early exposure to the health care industry and the many career choices available.

The Western Montana AHEC, located at the University of Montana, coordinates REACH programs at hospitals

throughout the seven-county region of western Montana. There are five Montana AHEC regional offices, located in Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, Billings and Miles City.

REACH is one of several programs that Montana AHEC provides to schools and communities throughout the state, fulfilling a portion of the center's mission to connect students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health. This is the fourth year St. Luke has hosted the REACH program.

For more information call Martha Robertson, Montana AHEC program coordinator, at 406-243-4746 or email martha.robertson@umontana.edu.

Contact: Martha Robertson, Montana Area Health Education Center program coordinator, 406-243-4746, martha.robertson@umontana.edu.



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